

## Report on ECA Board of Directors Meeting 1-2 June 2007, Canberra, ACT

### **OECD Report Starting Strong 2**

Professor Colette Tayler (School of Early Childhood, QUT) was the invited speaker at the board meeting. She presented aspects of her research with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the provision of quality early childhood education and care (ECEC) in eight countries, including Australia, which has been published in the report *Starting Strong 2*. The Executive Summary of the report can be viewed at <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/38/2/37417240.pdf>. Professor Tayler emphasised the low level of investment in early childhood services in Australia relative to other developed countries. In addition she commented on professional preparation and suggested that what is needed is the development of a contemporary profile of the early childhood educator now and into the future.

### **Australian Journal of Early Childhood**

The *Australian Journal of Early Childhood* is to be renamed the *Australasian Journal of Early Childhood* in order to accurately reflect its standing.

### **ECA Position Statements**

The working party established to rework the ECA policies into position statements and to develop an agreed format for these will begin work on redeveloping five of the current policies including children's rights, assessment and evaluation, and environment and sustainability.

### **Election issues for children**

In the 2007 Federal Election, ECA's election agenda will focus on 5 issues: sustainability, indigenous young children, parenting support, investment in early childhood, and children's rights. Letters will be written to key politicians requesting responses to questions based on these issues and the responses will then be published. An election e-card will be developed for people to send to politicians using the 'Hands Up for Children' campaign.

### **ECA Conference 2008, Canberra**

Themes and potential speakers have been identified. The sponsorship budget has been reached and accommodation for the conference secured.

NOTE: Conference participants will need to book accommodation early as the ECA conference coincides with Floriade, a major tourist attraction. Inexpensive online accommodation is unlikely to be available because of this. SA Branch member, Kate Ryan, is on the program committee for the conference.

### **ECA website**

The Board agreed to establish a Campfire Chat functionality which will allow Branches to have policy or other discussions with members in a secure online environment.

### **Letter to Minister**

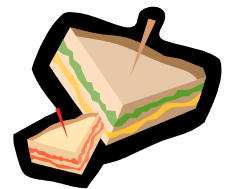
A letter is being written to Minister Mal Brough responding to issues raised in his speech to the Child Care NSW Conference.

*Christy Ward*

By popular request, here is Louise Cornelius' recipe for the chicken sandwiches which were so popular at our film night on 15th June:

### *Chicken and Almond Sandwiches*

300g poached chicken breast,  
chopped finely  
1 large trimmed celery stick,  
chopped finely  
1/3 cup chopped red onion  
2 tbsp roasted slivered almonds  
1/4 cup sour cream  
1/4 cup mayonnaise  
salt, ground black pepper



Make 5 three-layered sandwiches (brown and white bread)

## Flinders District Conference

The Early Childhood Australia – South Australian Branch in recent times has recognised the need to present professional development sessions to educators beyond the metropolitan boundaries. Early this year we received correspondence inviting us to present at a regional Flinders District Conference in Port Pirie.

The conference was well attended with over 400 participants. We believe this is an indication of the value educators in the rural area placed on the opportunity to hear speakers from across the state and interstate. ECA executive members presented 3 sessions in total. Rebecca Heath from Il Nido Paradise Community Child Care Centre presented Learning Stories. Joan Gilbert and Lee Jones from C.a.F.E. Enfield Children’s Centre presented two sessions titled Engaging Families, Engaging Children.

We thank the organising committee of the conference for the opportunity to share our work with our rural counterparts.

Joan Gilbert



The Australian Association of Infant Mental Health reminds you of 2 workshops featuring Dr Kent Hoffman:

**Two day workshop : *Building on attachment theory – developing greater insight into relationships***

Tuesday and Wednesday, 7 – 8 August 2007, 9.00am to 5.00pm

**One day spiritual retreat: *At the Heart of All Things, Tenderness***

Saturday August 18, 2007 – 9.30 am to 4.30 pm

For registration or location information contact Peta Conon phone:08 8379 8292  
or email [hoffmanworkshop@chariot.net.au](mailto:hoffmanworkshop@chariot.net.au). Further information about the training from Pam Linke - 08 8303 1566.

## DECS Learner Wellbeing Project – An Early Years focus

At the beginning of 2007 the DECS Learner Wellbeing Framework was launched by Ilona Kickbusch, current SA Thinker in Residence. The Framework has been sent to all DECS sites, birth to year 12, to support each site to inquire into a locally relevant aspect of Learner Wellbeing.

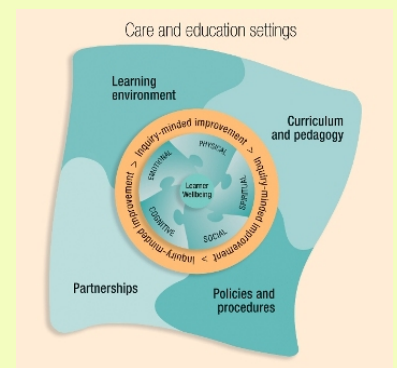
Embracing an inquiry methodology is at the heart of the DECS Learner Wellbeing Framework. This encourages staff to reflect deeply about learner wellbeing as part of a continuous improvement cycle and to respond to specific local circumstances.

Current inquiries in early years sites, from childcare through to junior primary, include the connection between play and wellbeing, engagement in the curriculum and emotional wellbeing, educator and child relationships, creating a language for communicating about wellbeing, anti-bullying strategies and much more.

Staff at one kindergarten, involved in an inquiry about enhancing connectedness between children, families, parents, community and staff, described learner wellbeing in their setting as “slippery” and dynamic, changing, growing, evolving and, always, a work in progress.

Wellbeing is a crucial component of an engaging curriculum, thoughtful teaching, building quality-focused community partnerships, promoting dynamic learning environments and establishing appropriate policies and procedures. Enhancing wellbeing in the early years through using the DECS Learner Wellbeing Framework as a resource can build on the excellent early childhood practices that exist in South Australia and continue to develop a vibrant community of early childhood educators.

**Please contact Victoria Buchanan for any more information or to obtain a copies of the Learner Wellbeing Framework. (Phone: 82264189)**



### Legislative Change Process

The Department of Educations and Children's Services (DECS) is currently conducting a review of the *Senior Secondary Assessment Board of South Australia Act 1983* (SSABSA Act), the *Education Act 1972* and the *Children's Services Act 1985*. Minister Jane Lomax Smith has invited comments and feedback from the community on these matters. In response Christy Ward is formally representing the views of our branch and any comments or ideas via our secretary would be welcomed. You may also be interested in attending your local Children's Services Regional Advisory Committee (your local DECS District office will have details of these) to share your views.

## Child Care Quality Assurance

Members are reminded that FaCSIA are organising meetings to discuss the Child Care Accreditation System in Adelaide in July at the following venues:

7.30 – 9pm, Thursday 26 July 2007, **Holiday Inn**, 65 Hindley St, Adelaide  
10 – 11.30am, Friday 27 July 2007, **Holiday Inn**, 65 Hindley St, Adelaide

This is part of the process for bringing together the Australian Government's quality assurance systems of long day care, family day care and out of school hours care.

Further information can be found on the FaCSIA website as it is made available [http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/childcare/child\\_care\\_system.htm](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/childcare/child_care_system.htm) or email [CCQA.Feedback@facsia.gov.au](mailto:CCQA.Feedback@facsia.gov.au)

Links to the Draft Standards are available on the FaCSIA website at:  
[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/childcare/\\$File/CCQA\\_DraftStandards07.pdf](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/childcare/$File/CCQA_DraftStandards07.pdf)  
The Draft Framework that accompanies the document is available at:  
[http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/childcare2/\\$File/CCQA\\_draft\\_framework.pdf](http://www.facsia.gov.au/internet/facsinternet.nsf/vIA/childcare2/$File/CCQA_draft_framework.pdf)

Early Childhood Australia SA Branch  
cordially invites you to attend the launch of the revised

### ***Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics***

The code will be officially launched in South Australia by  
the Hon Jennifer Rankin MP  
Minister Assisting in Early Childhood Development

**Saturday 28 July 2007**  
**Education Development Centre**  
**Milner Street, Hindmarsh**  
**9.15 am - 12.30 pm**

9.15 am : Arrival  
9.30 am : Official launch  
10.00 am : Morning tea  
10.30 am : Session facilitated by Catharine Hydon, Member of the Code of Ethics Working Party

***Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics***  
***A revision for a new time***

To secure a place RSVP by Monday 23 July to :

[ecasa@earlychildhood.org.au](mailto:ecasa@earlychildhood.org.au) or Freecall 1800 356900